

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-33. (canceled)

Claim ~~24~~³. (previously presented) A process for maturing dendritic cells, comprising:

- (a) isolating mononuclear cells from blood
- (b) culturing said mononuclear cells, together with hyaluronic acid fragments, in order to cause said mononuclear cells to mature irreversibly into said dendritic cells,

wherein each of said hyaluronic acid fragments is from 2,000-5,000 Da.

Claim 35. (canceled)

Claim ~~36~~⁴. (previously presented) The process of claim ~~34~~³, wherein said mononuclear cells are isolated from a leukocyte concentrate using a density gradient.

Claim ~~37~~⁵. (previously presented) The process of claim ~~36~~⁴, wherein said density gradient is a Ficoll density gradient.

Claim ~~38~~⁶. (previously presented) The process of claim ~~34~~³, wherein said mononuclear cells possess a CD14 surface marker and are further concentrated, after isolation from said leukocyte concentrate, using an antibody that is directed against said CD14 surface marker.

Claim ~~30~~⁷. (previously presented) The process of claim ~~34~~³, wherein said mononuclear cells possess a CD14 surface marker and are cultured in a medium that contains GM-CSF at a concentration from 5,000 to 10,000 U/mL and IL-4 at a concentration from 100 to 1,000 U/mL.

Claim ~~40~~⁸. (previously presented) The process of claim ~~34~~³, wherein said hyaluronic acid fragments each contain from 1 to 10 aminodisaccharides.

Claim ~~41~~⁹. (previously presented) The process of claim ~~34~~³, wherein said mononuclear cells possess a CD14 surface marker and are cultured for 72 hours to 7 days in a medium containing GM-CSF and IL-4.

Claim ~~42~~¹⁰. (previously presented) The process of claim ~~34~~³, wherein said mononuclear cells are cultured together with said hyaluronic acid fragments for at least 48 hours.

Claim ~~43~~¹¹. (previously presented) The process of claim ~~34~~³, wherein said hyaluronic acid fragments are chemically modified.

Claims 44-56. (canceled)

Claim ~~57~~¹. (currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising dendritic cells prepared by:

- (a) isolating mononuclear cells from blood
- (b) culturing said mononuclear cells, together with hyaluronic acid fragments, in order to cause said mononuclear cells to mature irreversibly into said dendritic cells,

wherein each of said hyaluronic acid fragments is from 2,000-5,000 Da.

Claims 58-59. (canceled)

Claim ~~60~~¹². (previously presented) The process of claim ~~34~~³, wherein said hyaluronic acid fragments are present at a concentration of 30 to 50 µg/ml.

Claim ²~~1~~. (currently amended) The ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition of claim ¹~~57~~, further comprising [[a]] an pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.